
New Shuttle between Laney and COA

PCCD students benefit from Estuary shuttle

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Bicyclists and pedestrians now have a free alternative to braving the depths of the Posey Tunnel: the City of Alameda's new Estuary Shuttle. The service benefits students because it provides a direct link between the College of Alameda (COA) and Laney College.

"Providing pedestrians and bicyclists with alternate access to the Posey Tube has been a goal of the City of Alameda for many years," said Alameda Mayor Marie L. Gilmore in an Aug. 10 statement.

"It's good, it's always on time," said Maria Bucardo, an Oakland resident and COA student said of the six-minute transit route between Madison Park and COA.

The shuttle, which can hold up to 12 bikes and 24 passengers at a time, runs at 30-minute intervals from 7:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The gap in service does not go unnoticed. According to Maya Freeman, an Oakland resident and student of both colleges, "They need to have it all day. Aside from that, it's great."

Freeman uses the shuttle five days a week to commute with her bike between campuses. During the service gap she rides through the tube.

Prior to the shuttle, the only free route through the Posey Tube for bicyclists and pedestrians was the cavernous walkway created along with the tube itself in 1928. Traversing the pathway can be hazardous, because although advised not to, some bike the route. If pedestrians are in their way, the walkway is too narrow to pass safely.

The service has seen a steep increase in ridership since it's August 15 start. "On the first day, there were 27 boardings. We now have reached up to 151 boardings per day and growing," said Matthew Naclerio, public works director for the City of Alameda.

The shuttle service is funded through August 14, 2012, by a one-year grant awarded from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District Transportation Fund for Clean Air to the City of

Alameda, the City of Oakland and the Peralta Community College District. BikeAlameda, a nonprofit bicycle organization, also provided assistance.

"The City of Alameda applied for a second year of funding," Naclerio said. If the City obtains funding shuttle service would be funded through summer of 2013.

Pick up and drop off points in Alameda include the College of Alameda's Ralph Appezato Memorial Parkway and at Marina Village at 860 Atlantic Avenue. In Oakland, the shuttle stops on Madison Street, between 8th and 9th streets, near the Lake Merritt BART station and Laney College.

Estuary Crossing Shuttle

► Frequency: Every 30 minutes

► Hours: 7 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays

(new hours as of October 17: 6:55 a.m. to 12 noon and 3:25 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on weekdays)

► Cost: Free